



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation August 2012**

#### *Unemployment Rate Essentially Unchanged*

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was essentially unchanged at 9.6 percent in August. The estimated number of unemployed people dropped by 2,021 to 204,941 with employment also decreasing (for the fifth consecutive month), down by 10,347 to 1,926,595. These declines moved the labor force total down 12,368 to an estimated 2,131,536. Noteworthy, the labor force participation rate (58.4) is the lowest since 1976 (oldest data available) and is reflective of more people choosing not to participate in the labor force than ever before.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased from 8.3 percent in July to 8.1 percent in August, primarily driven by fewer people participating in the labor force.

Nonfarm payroll jobs (not seasonally adjusted) grew by 2,400 from July to August, with the majority of the increase in Government (2,200), as state and local schools began augmenting staff for the opening day of the school year. Also increasing was the Education and Health Services sector (+1,400) as private educational schools and ambulatory health care services rebounded in August. Financial Activities had an upturn (+1,100), and there were small gains in Construction (+800) and Information (+800). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities payrolls increased by 300. Employment in Professional and Business Services, and Leisure and Hospitality fell (-2,000 and -1,600 respectively). Manufacturing declined by 400 jobs. Other Service related employment declined by 200 jobs. Natural Resources and Mining Activity was unchanged.

In the last year, nonfarm employment saw an overall increase of 15,000 jobs. The largest gains were in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+4,600) and Education and Health Services (+4,100), mostly in the Health Care and Social Assistance subsector). Professional and Business Services increased (+3,600 mostly in Employment Services), as did Manufacturing (+3,300). Information gained 1,600 jobs. Financial Activities employment increased (+600) and Other Service jobs (+100) also grew. Government had the largest decline since August 2011 (-2,000); other losses were seen in Natural Resources and Mining, Construction, and Leisure and Hospitality (each with -300).

Online job ads in South Carolina, as reported by the Conference Board Help Wanted OnLine® (HWOL) data series, showed a decrease of about 300 ads from July to August. The number of jobseekers per

opening remained at 3.7 this past month. Online ads across the United States saw a decrease of 108,700 in the last month. Compared to a year ago, online ads in South Carolina were approximately 6,600 higher in August 2012.

The Trident Workforce Area (Berkeley, Charleston, and Dorchester counties) had the most ads (14,211), with the Midlands Workforce Area (Fairfield, Lexington, and Richland counties) coming in next (13,547). Of all online ads, the Sales and Related Occupations group had the highest number of ads in the state (9,853).

“While I recognize there is more work to be done, today’s unemployment rate announcement shows me that South Carolina is on the road to economic recovery. We saw healthy gains in the Private Sector as the Education and Health Services, Financial Activities, Construction, and Information sectors all registered increases,” said Abraham J. Turner, executive director of the SC Department of Employment and Workforce.

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# **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY**

**Statewide  
August 2012**

<b>Jobs by Industry</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>July 2012</b>	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>July 2012 to August 2012</b>		<b>August 2011 to August 2012</b>	
				<b># Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b># Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	1,854,600	1,852,200	1,839,600	2,400	0.13%	15,000	0.82%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,600	3,600	3,900	0	0.00%	-300	-7.69%
Construction	76,700	75,900	77,000	800	1.05%	-300	-0.39%
Manufacturing	222,200	222,600	218,900	-400	-0.18%	3,300	1.51%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	356,600	356,300	352,000	300	0.08%	4,600	1.31%
Information	27,400	26,600	25,800	800	3.01%	1,600	6.20%
Financial Activities	96,900	95,800	96,300	1100	1.15%	600	0.62%
Professional and Business Services	232,700	234,700	229,100	-2,000	-0.85%	3,600	1.57%
Education and Health Services	220,600	219,200	216,500	1400	0.64%	4,100	1.89%
Leisure and Hospitality	221,000	222,600	221,300	-1600	-0.72%	-300	-0.14%
Other Services	69,400	69,600	69,300	-200	-0.29%	100	0.14%
Government	327,500	325,300	329,500	2,200	0.68%	-2000	-0.61%

**Note: Not Seasonally Adjusted**

## **NONFARM EMPLOYMENT**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas (Not Seasonally Adjusted)  
August 2012**

<b>INDUSTRY TITLE</b>	<b>August 2012</b>	<b>July 2012</b>	<b>August 2011</b>	<b>July 2012 to August 2012</b>		<b>August 2011 to August 2012</b>	
				<b># Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>	<b># Change</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Statewide</b>	1,854,600	1,852,200	1,839,600	2,400	0.13%	15,000	0.82%
Anderson MSA	57,400	57,600	58,300	-200	-0.35%	-900	-1.54%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	302,100	302,400	296,200	-300	-0.10%	5,900	1.99%
Columbia MSA	352,300	352,600	343,500	-300	-0.09%	8,800	2.56%
Florence MSA	84,200	83,700	82,000	500	0.60%	2,200	2.68%
Greenville MSA	302,900	299,100	304,600	3,800	1.27%	-1,700	-0.56%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	119,200	121,500	124,200	-2,300	-1.89%	-5,000	-4.03%
Spartanburg MSA	121,300	119,100	115,000	2,200	1.85%	6,300	5.48%
Sumter MSA	36,800	36,600	36,000	200	0.55%	800	2.22%

**Note:** Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE**  
**(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA		August 2012				July 2012				August 2011			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	↓	11,825	9,775	2,050	17.3	12,120	9,983	2,137	17.6	12,357	9,942	2,415	19.5
Allendale County	↑	3,270	2,718	552	16.9	3,347	2,786	561	16.8	3,396	2,767	629	18.5
Marlboro County	↓	11,330	9,459	1,871	16.5	11,545	9,587	1,958	17.0	11,690	9,626	2,064	17.7
Bamberg County	↑	6,236	5,217	1,019	16.3	6,319	5,308	1,011	16.0	6,348	5,288	1,060	16.7
Orangeburg County	↑	41,769	35,120	6,649	15.9	41,778	35,686	6,092	14.6	41,906	35,447	6,459	15.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,300	7,074	1,226	14.8	8,463	7,187	1,276	15.1	8,582	7,200	1,382	16.1
Union County	↓	11,320	9,661	1,659	14.7	11,444	9,746	1,698	14.8	11,569	9,641	1,928	16.7
Chester County	↓	14,355	12,321	2,034	14.2	14,541	12,372	2,169	14.9	14,802	12,410	2,392	16.2
Calhoun County	↑	6,983	6,006	977	14.0	6,922	6,087	835	12.1	6,835	5,928	907	13.3
Clarendon County	↓	12,255	10,539	1,716	14.0	12,529	10,737	1,792	14.3	12,627	10,637	1,990	15.8
Dillon County	↓	12,992	11,216	1,776	13.7	13,290	11,411	1,879	14.1	13,461	11,356	2,105	15.6
McCormick County	↑	3,308	2,854	454	13.7	3,330	2,895	435	13.1	3,386	2,899	487	14.4
Hampton County	–	7,635	6,665	970	12.7	7,788	6,798	990	12.7	7,883	6,761	1,122	14.2
Lancaster County	↓	30,336	26,586	3,750	12.4	30,745	26,747	3,998	13.0	31,292	26,799	4,493	14.4
Cherokee County	↓	24,515	21,517	2,998	12.2	24,802	21,702	3,100	12.5	24,996	21,572	3,424	13.7
Chesterfield County	↓	18,512	16,265	2,247	12.1	18,999	16,479	2,520	13.3	19,118	16,430	2,688	14.1
Lee County	↓	8,111	7,128	983	12.1	8,306	7,254	1,052	12.7	8,289	7,144	1,145	13.8
Williamsburg County	↑	15,936	14,014	1,922	12.1	16,265	14,306	1,959	12.0	16,388	14,218	2,170	13.2
Colleton County	↓	16,885	14,941	1,944	11.5	17,326	15,229	2,097	12.1	17,432	15,105	2,327	13.3
Darlington County	↓	31,103	27,545	3,558	11.4	31,456	27,767	3,689	11.7	31,336	27,225	4,111	13.1
Fairfield County	↓	10,615	9,450	1,165	11.0	10,857	9,577	1,280	11.8	10,621	9,327	1,294	12.2
Abbeville County	↓	10,530	9,404	1,126	10.7	10,713	9,550	1,163	10.9	10,901	9,563	1,338	12.3
Greenwood County	↓	30,267	27,024	3,243	10.7	30,745	27,412	3,333	10.8	31,053	27,406	3,647	11.7
Sumter County	↓	44,133	39,418	4,715	10.7	44,632	39,734	4,898	11.0	44,546	39,182	5,364	12.0
York County	↓	110,657	99,043	11,614	10.5	110,558	97,940	12,618	11.4	114,655	99,140	15,515	13.5
Oconee County	↓	30,789	27,721	3,068	10.0	31,348	28,088	3,260	10.4	31,444	28,141	3,303	10.5
Edgefield County	–	10,993	9,932	1,061	9.7	11,095	10,017	1,078	9.7	11,380	10,193	1,187	10.4
Laurens County	↓	30,355	27,422	2,933	9.7	30,491	27,418	3,073	10.1	31,145	27,824	3,321	10.7
Florence County	↓	62,857	56,857	6,000	9.5	63,530	57,315	6,215	9.8	63,150	56,196	6,954	11.0
Spartanburg County	↓	134,334	121,611	12,723	9.5	134,574	120,993	13,581	10.1	132,243	117,720	14,523	11.0
Horry County	–	130,318	118,061	12,257	9.4	134,296	121,617	12,679	9.4	138,168	124,147	14,021	10.1
Anderson County	↓	80,898	73,424	7,474	9.2	82,037	74,226	7,811	9.5	83,702	75,098	8,604	10.3
Georgetown County	↓	29,365	26,661	2,704	9.2	30,054	27,242	2,812	9.4	30,443	27,246	3,197	10.5
Newberry County	↓	18,026	16,408	1,618	9.0	18,345	16,660	1,685	9.2	18,405	16,493	1,912	10.4
Richland County	↓	181,703	165,390	16,313	9.0	184,779	167,618	17,161	9.3	181,317	163,240	18,077	10.0
Kershaw County	↓	29,483	26,911	2,572	8.7	30,076	27,274	2,802	9.3	29,541	26,561	2,980	10.1
Jasper County	↓	10,281	9,399	882	8.6	10,504	9,548	956	9.1	10,570	9,522	1,048	9.9
Pickens County	↓	57,371	52,521	4,850	8.5	57,608	52,514	5,094	8.8	58,806	53,290	5,516	9.4
Aiken County	↓	73,712	67,550	6,162	8.4	74,772	68,129	6,643	8.9	76,270	69,327	6,943	9.1
Beaufort County	↓	63,644	58,376	5,268	8.3	64,825	59,302	5,523	8.5	65,200	59,140	6,060	9.3
Berkeley County	↓	84,630	77,678	6,952	8.2	86,014	78,738	7,276	8.5	84,956	77,034	7,922	9.3
Charleston County	↓	177,705	163,841	13,864	7.8	180,343	166,075	14,268	7.9	178,594	162,483	16,111	9.0
Saluda County	↑	8,965	8,278	687	7.7	9,081	8,390	691	7.6	9,030	8,171	859	9.5
Dorchester County	↓	68,717	63,514	5,203	7.6	69,963	64,380	5,583	8.0	68,797	62,987	5,810	8.4
Greenville County	↓	222,141	205,367	16,774	7.6	222,946	205,337	17,609	7.9	227,862	208,374	19,488	8.6
Lexington County	–	132,613	123,078	9,535	7.2	134,408	124,736	9,672	7.2	132,583	121,478	11,105	8.4
Charleston MSA	↓	331,052	305,033	26,019	7.9	336,320	309,193	27,127	8.1	332,346	302,504	29,842	9.0
Columbia MSA	↓	370,363	339,114	31,249	8.4	376,122	343,681	32,441	8.6	369,928	334,705	35,223	9.5
Florence MSA	↓	93,960	84,402	9,558	10.2	94,986	85,082	9,904	10.4	94,486	83,421	11,065	11.7
Greenville MSA	↓	309,867	285,310	24,557	7.9	311,045	285,269	25,776	8.3	317,813	289,488	28,325	8.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,131,536	1,926,595	204,941	9.6	2,143,904	1,936,942	206,962	9.7	2,159,148	1,934,624	224,524	10.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up  
↓ Unemployment Rate Down  
– Unemployment Rate =